AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20.   (New) A file management method for a recording medium having distributed content recorded thereon in packages of files, said method comprising:

creating a directory for each package;

recording a file of content included in a package under the directory created for the package;

designating a directory name of the directory in correspondence to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package;

managing, using a package management file, a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

designating a file name of the file of content when the file is recorded on the recording medium in correspondence to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

managing, using a content file group management file, a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content.

Claim 21.   (New) The file management method according to claim 20, further comprising, when there exists, in the package, content linked to content included in another package, managing, using a link resolution file which is recorded on the

recording medium, a correspondence between a reference name indicating the content included in the another package and a package identifier of the another package.

Claim 22. (New) The file management method according to claim 20, wherein the content file group management file, the package management file, each package, and the directory for each package are recorded on the recording medium.

Claim 23. (New) The file management method according to claim 20, wherein the reference name and the content number contained in the content file group management file are both used for determining a link destination of the other content.

Claim 24. (New) A content playback method for playing back content from a recording medium on which:

distributed content is recorded in packages of files;

a directory is created for each package and a file of content included in a package is recorded under the directory created for the package;

a directory name of the directory is designated in correspondence to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package;

a package management file is provided to manage a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

a file name of the file of content is designated in correspondence to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

a content file group management file is provided to manage a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content;

3

said content playback method comprising :

extracting a file of content from the recording medium; and

when there is in the file of content a link specification to a file included in a same package as that in which the content is included, specifying a link destination file of content using the content file group management file.

Claim 25. (New) The content playback method according to claim 24, wherein, when there is in the file of content a link specification to a file included in a different package from that in which the content is included, the recording medium contains a link resolution file which provides a correspondence between a reference name indicating the file included in the different package and a package identifier of the different package, and said content playback method further comprises specifying a link destination file of content using the package management file and the link resolution file.

Claim 26. (New) The content playback method according to claim 24, wherein the reference name and the content number contained in the content file group management file are both used for determining a link destination of the other content.

Claim 27. (New) A content recording apparatus for recording distributed content in packages of files on a recording medium, said content recording apparatus comprising:

a package management information recorder operable to create a directory for each package, designate a directory name of a directory in correspondence to a package directory number uniquely assigned to a package, and create and record on the recording medium a package management file indicating a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package; and

a content file recorder operable to designate a file name of the file of content when the file is recorded on the recording medium in correspondence to a content number assigned on a per package basis, create a content file group management file indicating a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content, and record the file of content and the content file group management file on the recording medium.

Claim 28. (New) The content recording apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising a link resolution information recorder operable to, when there exists, in the package, content linked to content included in another package, create and record on the recording medium a link resolution file indicating a correspondence between a reference name indicating the content included in the another package and a package identifier of the another package.

Claim 29. (New) The content recording apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the reference name and the content number contained in the content file group management file are both used for determining a link destination of the other content.

Claim 30. (New) A content playback apparatus for playing back content from a recording medium on which:

distributed content is recorded in packages of files;

a directory is created for each package and a file of content included in a package is recorded under the directory created for the package;

a directory name of the directory is designated in correspondence to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package;

a package management file is provided to manage a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

a file name of the file of content is designated in correspondence to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

a content file group management file is provided to manage a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content;

said content playback apparatus comprising :

a content file acquirer operable to extract a file of content from the recording medium; and

a link resolver operable to, when there is in the file of content a link specification to a file included in a same package as that in which the content is included, specify a link destination file of content using the content file group management file.

Claim 31. (New) The content playback apparatus according to claim 30, wherein, when there is in the file of content a link specification to a file included in a different package from that in which the content is included, the recording medium contains a link resolution file which provides a correspondence between a reference name indicating the file included in the different package and a package identifier of the different package, and said link resolver is operable to specify a link destination file of content using the package management file and the link resolution file.

Claim 32. (New) The content playback apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the reference name and the content number contained in the content file group management file are both used for determining a link destination of the other content.

Claim 33. (New) A computer executable program for recording distributed content in packages of files on a recording medium, said content computer executable program comprising:

computer executable code operable to cause a computer to create a directory for each package, designate a directory name of a directory in correspondence to a package directory number uniquely assigned to a package, and create and record on the recording medium a package management file indicating a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package; and

computer executable code operable to cause a computer to designate a file name of the file of content when the file is recorded on the recording medium in correspondence to a content number assigned on a per package basis, create a content file group management file indicating a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content, and record the file of content and the content file group management file on the recording medium.

Claim 34. (New) The computer executable program according to claim 33, further comprising computer executable code operable to cause a computer to, when there exists, in the package, content linked to content included in another package, create and record on the recording medium a link resolution file indicating a correspondence between a reference name indicating the content included in the another package and a package identifier of the another package.

7

Claim 35. (New) The computer executable program according to claim 33, wherein the reference name and the content number contained in the content file group management file are both used for determining a link destination of the other content.

Claim 36. (New) A computer executable content playback program for playing back content from a recording medium on which:

distributed content is recorded in packages of files;

a directory is created for each package and a file of content included in a package is recorded under the directory created for the package;

a directory name of the directory is designated in correspondence to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package;

a package management file is provided to manage a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package;

a file name of the file of content is designated in correspondence to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

a content file group management file is provided to manage a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content;

said computer executable content playback program comprising:

computer executable code operable to cause the computer to extract a file of content from the recording medium; and

computer executable code operable to cause the computer to, when there is in the file of content a link specification to a file included in a same package as

that in which the content is included, specify a link destination file of content using the content file group management file.

Claim 37. (New) The computer executable content playback program according to claim 36, wherein , when there is in the file of content a link specification to a file included in a different package from that in which the content is included, the recording medium contains a link resolution file which provides a correspondence between a reference name indicating the file included in the different package and a package identifier of the different package, and said computer executable content playback program further comprises computer executable code operable to cause the computer to specify a link destination file of content using the package management file and the link resolution file.

Claim 38. (New) The computer executable content playback program according to claim 36, wherein the reference name and the content number contained in the content file group management file are both used for determining a link destination of the other content.

Claim 39. (New) A content playback method for playing back content from a recording medium on which distributed content is recorded in packages of files, each package having at least one file of content and a directory under which the at least one file of content is recorded, the directory having a directory name corresponding to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package, a package management file manages a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package, the content playback method comprising:

extracting a file of content from the recording medium, the file of content having a file name corresponding to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

when the file of content includes a link specification to a file included in a same package as that in which the file of content is included, specifying a link destination file of content using a content file group management file, which manages a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content.

Claim 40. (New) A content playback apparatus for playing back content from a recording medium on which distributed content is recorded in packages of files, each package having at least one file of content and a directory under which the at least one file of content is recorded, the directory having a directory name corresponding to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package, a package management file manages a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package, the content playback apparatus comprising:

a content file acquirer that extracts a file of content from the recording medium, the file of content having a file name corresponding to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

a link resolver that, when the file of content includes a link specification to a file included in a same package as the package in which the content is included, specifies a link destination file of content using a content file group management file, which manages a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content.

Claim 41. (New) A computer executable content playback program for playing back content from a recording medium on which distributed content is recorded in

packages of files, each package having at least one file of content and a directory under which the at least one file of content is recorded, the directory having a directory name corresponding to a package directory number uniquely assigned to the package, a package management file manages a correspondence between the package directory number and a package identifier assigned to the package, the computer executable content playback program comprising:

a content file acquiring code segment that causes a computer to extract a file of content from the recording medium, the file of content having a file name corresponding to a content number assigned on a per package basis; and

a link resolving code segment that, when the file of content includes a link specification to a file included in a same package as the package in which the content is included, causes the computer to specify a link destination file of content using a content file group management file, which manages a correspondence between the content number and a reference name when the content is linked from other content.